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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRALIA.

Plague at Brisbane, Cairns, and Sydney—Examination of rodents for plague infection.

The following information is taken from plague bulletins issued by the health departments of Queensland and New South Wales and forwarded by Consul-General Bray at Melbourne:

QUEENSLAND.

A fatal case of bubonic plague at Brisbane occurred on January 3, 1908. The patient worked on a coal hulk in the river. He was admitted to the Brisbane general hospital on the 1st instant. The post-mortem examination showed that death was due to plague. The bacterioscopic, cultural, and inoculation tests were positive of plague. Active search for plague-infected rats is now being made at the late residence of the patient, as also at the wharves, the latter having been under especial supervision for some time past and notably free of rat infestation.

Cairns.

The last case of plague at Cairns occurred on October 8, 1907. Since that date a further case has been reported. A man aged 30 years, a Portuguese, living at Green Island, some distance out of Cairns, and working on the outskirts of the town, was reported on November 23. The patient died on November 30 at the Cairns plague hospital. The Health Officer visited Green Island, but careful investigation did not reveal the presence of rat mortality. At the date of the officer's visit the island was found practically free of rats. No further case has occurred at Green Island, or at Cairns.

Of 87 rats caught recently at Cairns no evidence of plague infection was discoverable among the rodents.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

During the week ended January 4 two cases of plague occurred at Sydney, as follows:

Female, employed making calico bags at a bag manufactory in Darling Harbor, and living at Marrickville, a suburb of Sydney, about 4 miles distant from the general post-office.

Male, dairyman, carrying on business at Hurstville, a suburb about 9 miles distant from Sydney.

Plague rats were obtained from a large produce store at Marrickville, situated at the corner of the street, and a short distance from

the house where the first patient lived. The second patient obtained his produce from this store. The premises were quarantined on the 2d instant and a cleansing gang is turning over all stock and carrying out general disinfection.

Examination of rodents for plague infection.

Brisbane.—Week ended November 16. Number of rodents destroyed, 483; examined, 359; found infected, 0.

Week ended November 23. Rodents destroyed, 572; examined, 421; found infected, 0.

Week ended November 30. Rodents destroyed, 553; examined, 397; found infected, 1.

Week ended December 7. Rodents destroyed, 360; examined, 258; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 14. Rodents destroyed, 611; examined, 460; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 21. Rodents destroyed, 530; examined, 411; found infected, 0.

Week ended January 4, 1908. Rodents destroyed, 452; examined, 314; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 21. Rodents destroyed, 530; examined, 411; found infected, 0.

Week ended January 4, 1908. Rodents destroyed, 452; examined, 314; found infected, 0.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney.—Week ended November 16. Number of rodents destroyed, 1,936; examined, 490; found infected, 0.

Week ended November 30. Rodents destroyed, 2,004; examined, 422; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 7. Rodents destroyed, 1,809; examined, 422; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 14. Rodents destroyed, 1,685; examined, 393; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 21. Rodents destroyed, 1,722; examined, 381; found infected, 0.

Week ended December 28. Rodents destroyed, 1,236; examined, 233; found infected, 0.

Week ended January 4, 1908. Rodents destroyed, 1,701; examined, 575; found infected, 10.

BARBADOS.

Report from Bridgetown—Yellow fever in vicinity.

Consul Clare reports, January 31:

One fatal case of yellow fever occurred January 29 in the parish of St. Peter, about 12 miles from the port of Bridgetown. This case was reported to-day by the board of health. There had been no case of yellow fever since one which occurred December 4, and resulted fatally December 11, 1907.